

ADVOCACY DOSSIER

ALI MAMMERI

علي معمري

Imprisoned (serving sentence) Algeria

Ali Mammeri is a public sector employee and trade union president who founded the Independent National Union of Employees in the Culture and Arts Sector. He was arrested without a warrant in March 2025 and sentenced to ten years in prison.

HuMENA.

Prepared by HuMENA for Human Rights and Civic Engagement · 8 November 2026

Case reference HM-DZ-2025-001

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THE CASE AT A GLANCE

Ali Mammeri is a public sector employee and trade union president who founded the Independent National Union of Employees in the Culture and Arts Sector. He was arrested without a warrant in March 2025 and sentenced to ten years in prison.

STATUS	**Imprisoned (serving sentence)**
ARRESTED	**19 Mar 2025**
COUNTRY	**Algeria**
SENTENCE	**Ten years in prison.**
CHARGES	**Glorifying terrorist acts (Penal Code articles 87 bis 1, 87 bis 4 and 87 bis 5)** **Disseminating classified or sensitive information (articles 34 and 39 of Ordinance 21-09)**

WE CALL ON THE AUTHORITIES TO:

WHAT WE ASK

01 Release Ali Mammeri immediately and unconditionally.

02 Drop all charges related to the peaceful exercise of fundamental rights.

03 Ensure unrestricted access to legal counsel, family, and adequate medical care while in detention.

Latest updates on this case
Scan the code or visit:
https://humena.org/defenders/ali-mammeri/

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DOCUMENTED VIOLATIONS

	INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
Arbitrary detention	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9
Denial of legal counsel	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 14(3)
Enforced disappearance	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, Article 2 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 9, 16
Judicial harassment	UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Articles 9, 12
Physical assault	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 7, 9
Prolonged pretrial detention	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9(3)
Torture	Convention against Torture, Articles 1, 2 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 7
Unfair trial	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 14

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HOW THE CASE UNFOLDED

2024

ADMINISTRATIVE AND ECONOMIC MEASURES

Moved to a post with no real duties after union appointment

He was transferred from his post at the Directorate of Culture and Arts in Oum El Bouaghi to a post with no real duties or adequate working conditions after his appointment as a trade union delegate to the Ministry of Culture on 17 June 2024.

2024

CONTEXT

Asked to be reinstated in his original post

He asked to be reinstated in his original post, challenging the transfer.

19 March 2025

ARREST

Arrested without warrant at workplace

Ali Mammeri was arrested at his workplace in Oum El Bouaghi by plainclothes police officers who did not present a judicial warrant or state clear reasons for the arrest.

19 March 2025

START OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

Family and lawyer denied information on his whereabouts

Until 23 March, police denied his family and lawyer information about his whereabouts, effectively subjecting him to enforced disappearance.

19 March 2025

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

Beaten, stripped and forced to confess in police custody

During his first days in police custody he was beaten repeatedly, stripped naked during interrogation and forced to confess to the accusations against him. He told his lawyer about this treatment on 26 March 2025.

22 March 2025

CALL BY OTHERS

UN disappearances body informed

The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances was informed of his disappearance.

23 March 2025

REAPPEARANCE IN CUSTODY

End of enforced disappearance

His family and lawyer were informed of his whereabouts for the first time since his arrest on 19 March.

24 March 2025

CONTEXT

Calls his mother from Constantine security headquarters

He called his mother and told her he was held at the security headquarters of the Wilaya of Constantine.

27 March 2025

COMPLAINT FILED BY THE PERSON

Torture complaint obstructed

His mother tried to file a torture complaint with the Oum El Bouaghi prosecutor. The clerk refused to acknowledge receipt in writing, so she sent the complaint by post. No investigation is known to have been opened.

27 March 2025

PRETRIAL DETENTION ORDERED

Placed in pretrial detention by an investigating judge

Police custody ended and the case went to an investigating judge at the Oum El Bouaghi tribunal under Penal Code articles 87 bis 1, 87 bis 4 and 87 bis 5 and articles 34 and 39 of Ordinance 21-09. The judge placed him in pretrial detention without informing his lawyer, who found him in court by chance.

23 April 2025

CALL BY OTHERS

Urgent appeal to UN Special Rapporteurs

MENA Rights Group, COSYFOP and Justitia sent an urgent appeal on his case to UN Special Rapporteurs.

24 October 2025

PETITION TO THE WORKING GROUP ON ARBITRARY DETENTION

MENA Rights Group and partners ask the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention for an opinion

29 October 2025

CONVICTION

Sentenced to 15 years in prison

The Criminal Court of First Instance of Oum El Bouaghi convicted Ali Mammeri and sentenced him to 15 years in prison.

1 February 2026

APPEAL: SENTENCE REDUCED

Sentence reduced on appeal to 10 years

The Criminal Court of Appeal reduced the sentence to ten years in prison.

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THE FULL STORY

Background and Work

Ali Mammeri is a public sector employee in Algeria and the founder and president of the Independent National Union of Employees in the Culture and Arts Sector, affiliated with the Trade Union Confederation of Productive Forces. He has worked to organize workers in the culture and arts sector and to advocate for labor rights in a context where independent trade unionism faces significant state pressure.

His union activity has made him a target. He faced repeated harassment before his arrest, linked to his efforts to build collective representation for public employees in a sector often neglected in labor law enforcement. The charges brought against him in 2025 include references to his correspondence with trade unionists and activists abroad, communications that were professional and union-related in nature.

The Arrest

On 19 March 2025, plainclothes police officers arrested Ali Mammeri at his workplace in Oum El Bouaghi. They did not present a judicial warrant. They did not clearly state the reasons for his detention. His family and lawyer were denied any information about his whereabouts.

From 19 to 23 March, Ali Mammeri disappeared into state custody. This period of incommunicado detention constitutes enforced disappearance under international human rights law. His family were left in fear, with no knowledge of whether he was alive, where he was being held, or what charges, if any, had been brought against him.

Information about his location was finally provided on 23 March 2025, ending the enforced disappearance but not the pattern of abuse.

Detention Conditions and Torture

Credible reports indicate that Ali Mammeri was subjected to severe ill-treatment during his detention. He was beaten repeatedly. He was forced to strip naked during interrogation. He was pressured to confess under duress. These acts amount to torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment prohibited under the Convention against Torture, to which Algeria is a state party.

On 27 March 2025, his mother filed a formal complaint alleging torture. The court clerk refused to acknowledge receipt in writing, so she sent it by post. No investigation is known to have been opened. The failure to document and investigate torture allegations reflects systemic impunity for abuses committed against detainees, particularly those targeted for political or union activity.

Ali Mammeri remains in detention.

Legal Proceedings

After the period of police custody, the case was transferred to an investigating judge. Ali Mammeri was charged with "glorifying terrorist acts" and "disseminating confidential information." The evidence cited against him included his correspondence with trade unionists and activists outside Algeria, communications that were part of his work as a union organizer.

His lawyer was not effectively notified in a manner that allowed full exercise of the right to defense. The charges were vague and broadly applied. Insufficient evidence was presented to substantiate the material elements of the offenses. The use of terrorism-related provisions to criminalize peaceful trade union activity and expression is a recognized pattern in Algeria and reflects the misuse of national security laws to silence dissent.

On 29 October 2025, the Criminal Court of First Instance of Oum El Bouaghi sentenced Ali Mammeri to 15 years in prison. On 1 February 2026, the Criminal Court of Appeal reduced the sentence to ten years. The reduction does not address the core violations: arbitrary detention, torture, and the absence of fair trial guarantees.

International Response and Ongoing Violations

Ali Mammeri's case illustrates multiple breaches of international human rights law. He was arrested without a warrant. He was subjected to enforced disappearance. He was tortured, and the complaint his mother filed was suppressed. He was denied effective legal representation and tried under laws designed to conflate union organizing with terrorism. His conviction rests on charges that criminalize peaceful expression and association.

His detention has forced him to abandon his work. His family live in constant fear. He has lost years of his life to a prison sentence that should never have been imposed. The Algerian authorities bear full responsibility for his safety and for the continuing denial of his rights.

The case requires urgent international attention, independent investigation into the torture allegations, accountability for the officials responsible, and Ali Mammeri's immediate release.

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SAMPLE LETTER

Copy it, adapt it and send it from your own address.

Your Excellency,

I am writing to demand the immediate release of Ali Mammeri, public sector employee; founder and president of the Independent National Union of Employees in the Culture and Arts Sector, currently detained in Algeria since 19 March 2025, and an end to all reprisals tied to this case.

In brief: Ali Mammeri is a public sector employee and trade union president who founded the Independent National Union of Employees in the Culture and Arts Sector. He was arrested without a warrant in March 2025 and sentenced to ten years in prison.

I respectfully urge your authorities to:
1. Release Ali Mammeri immediately and unconditionally;
2. Drop all charges related to the peaceful exercise of fundamental rights;
3. Ensure unrestricted access to legal counsel, family, and adequate medical care while in detention.

I will continue to monitor this case until Ali Mammeri is free.

Respectfully,

[Your name]
[Your city, country]
8 November 2026